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Title : Need to safeguard the interests of Tamilians in Sri Lanka.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, the Tamils of Sri Lanka are the people of Indian Origin. Their ancestors went from Southern India to Sri Lanka during the 19th and 20th century. They are mainly concentrated in the northern province and have been instrumental in the development of Sri Lankan economy. Most of them are Hindus besides a minority of Christians and Muslims. They have also been given Sri Lankan citizenship.

However, the ethnic crisis started in Sri Lanka for the past many decades is still continuing in which several thousands of Tamil people lost their lives and were rendered homeless. Over the years they are coming to India as refugees and it has also resulted in forced disappearance of thousands of others. Moreover, there are also incidents of killing of Indian fishermen on the sea by the Sri Lanka's defence establishment.

These incidents are rampant since past few months. Keeping this in mind, our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi has intervened and called an all-party meeting to discuss the issue. Recently he met the Hon'ble Prime Minister and impressed upon him the need to pressurize the Sri Lankan Government to stop the attack on Tamils and to announce an immediate ceasefire in the island nation. He has also demanded that the External Affairs Minister may be sent to Sri Lanka to solve the issue.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to make sincere efforts to prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government to resolve the crisis permanently in the Island Nation and arrive at a long-lasting solution.